

Pt. 11 **Five Greatest Sins**

Acts 5:1-11

ILLUSTRATION:

After being included in Oprah Winfrey's famous book club, James Frey's memoir, *A Million Little Pieces* quickly sold over 3.5 million copies. Controversy erupted, however, when members of the press began to question whether or not the stories contained in Frey's book were actually true.

On January 11, 2005, Oprah Winfrey herself called in to CNN's "Larry King Live." She defended the book, and its author, stating that the controversy over his truthfulness was "much ado about nothing." She claimed that Frey's writing was the "essential truth" of his life.

She went on to say: "Although some of the facts have been questioned...the underlying message of redemption in James Frey's memoir still resonates with me. And I know that it resonates with millions of other people who have read this book and will continue to read this book...it's irrelevant discussing, you know, what happened or did not happen to the police."

Reversing herself several weeks later, after new information had come out confirming Frey's dishonesty, Oprah apologized on her own show. "I regret that phone call," she said. "I made a mistake and I left the impression that the truth does not matter. And I am deeply sorry about that, because that is not what I believe. To everyone who has challenged me on this issue of truth, you are absolutely right."

Pt. 11 **“Five Greatest Sins”**

Acts 5: 1-11

All Against the Holy Spirit

For the **Unbeliever...**

1. Sin of Wasting Away the Day of God's Grace.

Genesis 3....Proverbs 29....John 6:44

2. Unpardonable Sin.....John 3: 18 & 36

For the **Christian...**

3. **Lying to the Holy Spirit...**...Acts 5:1-11

- a. Human deceitfulness....Vs. 1-2
- b. Satanic influence....Vs. 3
- c. Unexpected detection....Vs. 3-4
- d. Divine judgment....Vs. 5-6
- e. Fatal disappointment....Vs.7-11

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. – 1 John 4:1

4. **Grieving the Holy Spirit...**...Ephesians 4:29-32

- a. By communication
- b. By attitude of the heart
- c. By attitude toward other Christians
- d. By attitude toward the Church

5. **Quenching the Holy Spirit...**...1 Thessalonians 5:19

- a. When the word “quench” is used in Scripture, it is speaking of suppressing fire.
- b. When believers put on the shield of faith, as part of their armor of God (Ephesians 6:16), they are extinguishing the power of the fiery darts from Satan.
- c. Christ described hell as a place where the fire would not be “quenched” (Mark 9:44, 46, 48).
- d. Likewise, the Holy Spirit is a fire dwelling in each believer.
 - He wants to express Himself in our actions and attitudes.
 - When believers do not allow the Spirit to be seen in our actions, when we do what we know is wrong, we suppress or quench the Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19).
 - We do not allow the Spirit to reveal Himself the way that He wants to.

Both quenching and grieving the Spirit are similar in their effects.

1. Both hinder a godly lifestyle.
2. Both happen when a believer sins against God and follows his or her own worldly desires.
3. The only correct road to follow is the road that leads the believer closer to God and purity, and farther away from the world and sin.
4. Just as we do not like to be grieved, and just as we do not seek to quench what is good—so we should not grieve or quench the Holy Spirit by refusing to follow His leading.